Document of the Month: Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana

This report provides an early account of Indiana’s military history. The Adjutant General’s reports, also known as Terrell’s Reports, contain correspondence from the Adjutant Generals’ Office to the Governor, President, and other dignitaries throughout the United States. In 1865 the Indiana General Assembly ordered the production of a report on the part taken by Indiana and its government in the prosecution of the war. These reports were named for W.H.H. Terrell, who was Indiana Adjutant General at the end of the Civil War (also known as the War of the Rebellion). Terrell served on Governor Morton’s staff before he became appointed as adjutant general. Terrell’s reports became an invaluable research tool and included the 28th United States Colored Troops regiment, many of which were recruited in Indiana. Also included in this document are tables with Military Company names, county the company was located, and when the commissions were ordered. A law in 1831 divided the State into ten divisions; the divisions into twenty-four brigades; and the brigades into 85 regiments. Later laws (1842-1844) authorized the organization of independent companies by voluntary enlistment, which can be viewed as a precursor to the National Guard. The first independent companies were in Marion County; the second in Tippecanoe County, and the third in Cass County. These reports contain a rich history as it covers various wars in which Indiana troops have served: the Mexican-American War, War of the Rebellion (Civil War), etc. The Adjutant General’s Reports are a useful research tool for genealogists, war historians, and everyone in between. The reports can be found in the Indiana collection, I 353.6 I 385ar for the years 1844-2010.